(b) whether it is also a fact that direct requirement to Class II posts has not been abolished even after ten years of implementation of these recommendations;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor in view of the acute stagnation in the cadre; and

(d) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to change recruitment rule of Assistant Engineers, in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) It is a fact that Limited departmental examination was introduced from February, 1977 for promotion in the grade of Asstt. Engineer from the grade of Jr. Engineer in C.P.W.D.:

(b) and (c) The direct recruitment to the grade of Asstt. Engineers (Class II) has remained suspended in CPWD since 1972. However, the provision in this regard has not been deleted from the Recruitment Rules.

(d) There is no such proposal under Government's consideration.

Eligibility criteria for promotion of Junior Engineers in CPWD

2558. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rule of promoting graduate Junior Engineers with five years experience had been scrapped in CPWD in consideration of the stagnation in the cadre;

(b) whether it is a fact that the eligibility criteria for promotion from Diploma Holder has been extended from eight years to ten years, on the same consideration;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the eligibility criteria from Grade II. J. E. to Grade I is also five years; and

(d) if so, what would be the eligibility for promotion to Assistant Engineer from Grade I and Grade II Junior Engineers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) It is not correct that the earlier prescribed 5 years eligibility period for Graduate Junior Engineers for promotion as Assistant Engineer has been dispensed with on grounds of stagnation. It is also not correct that the Diploma Holder Junior Engineers have been prescribed a 10 years' eligibility period for promotion as Asstt. Engineers.

These regulations were followed before 1971. Subsequent to a Delhi High Court decision in 1971, all Junior Engineers are promoted as Assistant Engineers without reference to any prescribed length of service.

(c) Yes.

(d) There is no eligibility period prescribed for promotion of Grade I Junior Engineers to Assistant Engineer. The question of Grade II Junior Engineers being promoted as Assistant Engineers does not arise.

Taking over of Visvesaraya Iron and Steel Limited

2559. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to take over the Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited, Bhadrawati by the SAIL is pending since long;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for delay in this regard; and

(c) at what stage the matter is pending before Government and by when it would be taken over by the SAIL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) to (c) After consideration of the proposal of the State Government of Karnataka for take over of Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Limited by Steel Authority of India Limited, the Government of India have advised the Karnataka Government that the viability of the plant depends upon an assured supply of power throughout the year and fixing a reasonable tariff for the power together with certain other concessions. Mere transfer of ownership to the Government of India would not solve this basic problem.

Demonstration at TV Centre Bangalore

2560. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the people of Karnataka demonstrated at the Bangalore TV Centre on 22nd February, 1988;

(b) if so what are the reasons therefor together with the demands of the people of Karnataka; and

(c) whether Government propose to concede their demands if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) On 21-2-88, demonstrations were held before Doordarshan Kendra, Bangalore by Karnataka Writers' and Artists' Guild. Main demands of Guild were increase in Kannada programme with immediate effect; telecast of Kannada films on Sundays instead of Saturdays; telecast of regional news bulletins in place of national news bulletin in Hindi; and recruitment of Kannadigas against the various posts at the Kendra.

(c) A full-fledged TV studio centre has already been commissioned at Bangalore on 1-2-88 for the production of more regional language programmes. It has been decided that w.e.f. 18-3-88 Doordarshan Kendra Bangalore will commence its transmission from 1830 hours and will ordinate its programmes mainly in Kannada language. The Kendra will join national programme at 8-40 p.m As regards telecast of Kannada feature films on Sundays instead of Saturdays and telecast of regional news bulletin in place of national news bulletin in Hindi, no change in the present arrangements is possible. As regards recruitment of Kannadigas appointment to various posts is done strictly on the basis of Recruitment Rules which do not provide for any reservation on the basis of region

Drug abuse in the country

2561. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government had recently adopted a three pronged strategy to counter the growing problem of drug abuse in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the strategy;

(c) whether the Centre has directed the State Governments to follow the strategy; and

(d) if so, the reactions of the State Governments in this regard and to what extent the menace of drug abuse in the country is likely to be wiped out as a result of adopting the strategy?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON) : (a) and (b) The Government has adopted a multi-dimensional approach to counter the problem of drug abuse which includes measures for curbing illicit trafficking treating addicts through motivation, counselling treatment and rehabilitaion and awareness education and training programme to curb increasing demand.